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## NEWS.

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MACMILLAN AND COMPANY announce for publication before Christmas a textbook on plant pathology by Dr. D. T. MACDOUGAL and F. S. EARLE.

PROFESSOR R. THAXTER, of the Cryptogamic Laboratory of Harvard University, is spending his sabbatical year in a collecting trip in South America.

OAKES AMES, R. C. LEAVITT, and A. A. EATON of the Ames Botanical Laboratory, left October 10 for a period of study in British and European herbaria.

DR. FORREST SHREVE, Bruce Fellow in the Johns Hopkins University, sailed from Baltimore on October 13 for Jamaica, where he will spend the year in work on the anatomy and physiology of epiphytes.

THE TWENTY-FIRST annual meeting of the Indiana Academy of Science was held at Shortridge High School, Indianapolis, December 1, 1905, under the presidency of JOHN S. WRIGHT. The program contained twenty papers on botanical topics.

PROFESSOR B. L. ROBINSON has returned to his duties at the Gray Herbarium after spending several months in Europe, where he attended the Vienna Congress and made brief studies in various herbaria. MR. M. L. FERNALD has been promoted to an assistant professorship.

MRS. A. G. HELMER, of Helmer, Georgia, is prepared to send by mail small boxes showing the products of the cotton plant for school and home study. The box contains photographs of the flower, pod, and leaf; a ripe pod with seeds *in situ*; samples of seed after ginning, hulls, meal, crude and refined oil; and a miniature bale of cotton.

PROFESSOR W. A. KELLERMAN will leave before the holidays for Guatemala to continue his mycologic studies begun there last winter. He reports a rich harvest of parasitic fungi and hopes to publish next summer some of the results of the two seasons' work. Several new species are on hand and special phases of the subject are under investigation. Minor commissions of specialists will be gladly executed, so far as feasible; requests should be made immediately.

DR. J. C. ARTHUR, of Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, is preparing the manuscript upon the plant rusts of North America for early publication in the *North American Flora*. As this is the first attempt to present the uredineous flora of North America with reasonable completeness, much difficulty is naturally experienced in securing material enough to show approximately the geographical distribution of species. Any assistance, through the gift of duplicate specimens or the loan of herbarium sheets, will be greatly appreciated. The commonest, as well as the rarer species, are desired.

AT THE Desert Botanical Laboratory, Tucson, Arizona, Professor F. E. LLOYD, of Columbia University, spent June and July in a continuation of his 1905]

studies on the physiology of the stomata of desert plants. Dr. V. M. SPALDING has returned for his third winter's research work at this laboratory, and is extending his studies on the absorption of water and water vapor by representative shrubs and trees. The resident investigator, Dr. W. A. CANNON, is observing the transpiration of certain salt-loving plants which are growing in the vicinity of Tucson, and continuing his work on the anatomy of *palo verde* (*Parkinsonia*) and other plants.

ON JULY 15 appeared the first number of the semi-monthly *Repertorium novarum specierum regni vegetabilis*, under the editorial direction of Dr. FEDDE, and from the publishing house of GEBRÜDER BORNTAEGER. The earlier numbers each contain sixteen pages, filled with diagnoses of new species, some original (South American collections mainly), some reprinted. It is the purpose to reprint in this journal the scattered descriptions of new species from all journals and floras, as published, and to publish original papers of the same kind. The subscription price at present is *M* 10 per year; or for an edition printed on one side only, for card catalogue use, *M* 15.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS has recently improved its equipment for courses in mycological and bacteriological technique. For the present, only elementary mycology and bacteriology for sanitary engineers are given, but it is intended later to offer advanced courses. Professor W. L. BRAY, head of the School of Botany, is preparing an elementary plant geography of Texas, to be issued as a bulletin of the University of Texas for the affiliated schools. The major part of the bulletin will deal with the factors influencing distribution and the phenomena of adaptation. He is also continuing his study of the forest conditions of the "Big Thicket" country of southeastern Texas. A. M. FERGUSON, instructor in botany, has been endeavoring by experiments on an extensive scale to improve the quality and yield in southern corn, and is investigating the acclimatization of corn races.

DURING the month of September, Professors OLIVER, TANSLEY, and BLACKMAN conducted a field expedition to the Bouche D'Erquy in Brittany, somewhat on the lines of a previous expedition, but more thoroughly carried out, and embracing more points of attack. The place selected both in 1904 and 1905 was an extensive area of salt marshes. The party was divided into three sections: (1) under charge of Professor OLIVER, continuing and contouring the general map of the area, begun in 1904; (2) under charge of Mr. TANSLEY, charting the vegetation, in which work CLEMENTS's quadrat and transect methods were employed, in addition to the grid system of OLIVER and TANSLEY; (3) under charge of Dr. BLACKMAN of Cambridge, determining the physical factors of the habitats, especially the salt and water factors. It is planned to continue these expeditions in succeeding years, and permanent quadrats have been plotted to facilitate the study of vegetation changes. This study is one of the most practical and systematic yet attempted, and the division of labor amongst the members of the party, each section being under charge of a competent specialist, is particularly commendable.